

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

ABUSLEME et al

Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned

Serial No.: New Application

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: March 4, 2002

Attorney Dkt. No.: 108910-00057

For: MULTILAYERS OF POLYAMIDES AND FLUORINATED COPOLYMERS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 4, 2002

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fees and initial examination of the application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-10 as follows. A copy of the marked up original claims is attached to this response showing the changes as set forth in amended 37 CFR 1.121.

3. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to claim 1, wherein the thermoprocessable copolymers of layer A) are formed by:

- from 10 to 70% by moles, preferably from 35 to 55% of ethylene;
- from 30 to 90% by moles, preferably from 45 to 65%, of a fluorinated monomer selected from tetrafluoroethylene, chlorotrifluoroethylene, or mixtures thereof, preferably chlorotrifluoroethylene (CTFE);

- from 0.05% to 15% by moles of the acrylic comonomer (a) referred to the sum of the previous monomers, preferably n-butylacrylate.

4. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to claim 1, wherein layer A) is formed by a blend of the copolymers of layer A) and the same copolymers without the acrylic monomer, provided that the blend contains an amount of acrylic monomer (a) in the range 0.01% - 15% by moles with respect to the total sum of the monomers of ethylene and of CTFE and/or TFE of the blend.

5. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to claim 1, wherein the polyamides of layer B) are formed by a blend of polyamides having different contents of -NH₂ end groups provided that the blend contains an amount of -NH₂ end groups higher than 40 µeq/g.

6. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to claim 1, wherein layer B) is a polyamide having an amount of -NH₂ end groups lower than 40 µeq/g, blended with 0.01-5% by weight, preferably 0.1-2% by weight, of one or more diamines.

7. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to claim 1, wherein the diamines are selected from the group formed by hexamethyldiaminecarbamate, N,N'-dicinnamylidene-1,6 hexandiamine, dodecylamine and decylamine, para-xylylendiamine.

8. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to claim 1, wherein on the top of layer A) a layer A1) is placed based on copolymers of ethylene with chlorotrifluoroethylene, and/or tetrafluoroethylene, not containing the acrylic monomer (a), and/or on the top of layer B), a layer B1) is placed based on polyamide having an amount of -NH_2 end groups lower than $40\mu\text{eq/g}$.

9. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to claim 1, under the form of sheath-core fibers.

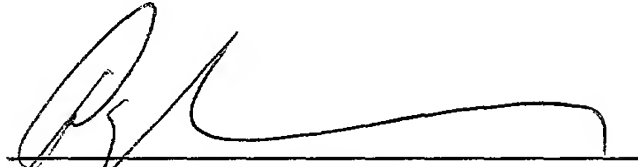
10. (Amended) Fuel lines formed by multilayers according to claim 1, wherein at least the internal layer in contact with the liquid fuel is made conductive by incorporation of graphite and/or carbon black.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3-10 are amended to correct the multiple dependencies thereof and to place this application into better condition for examination. No new matter has been added.

In the event that there are any fees due with respect to the filing of this paper,
please charge Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas H. Goldhush
Registration No. 33,125

Customer No. 004372

ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,

Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20036-5339

Tel: (202) 857-6000

Fax: (202) 638-4810

DHG:scc

Enclosures: Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims

MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS
ATTY. DOCKET NO. 108910-00057

3. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to claim 1 [and 2], wherein the thermoprocessable copolymers of layer A) are formed by:

- from 10 to 70% by moles, preferably from 35 to 55% of ethylene;
- from 30 to 90% by moles, preferably from 45 to 65%, of a fluorinated monomer selected from tetrafluoroethylene, chlorotrifluoroethylene, or mixtures thereof, preferably chlorotrifluoroethylene (CTFE);
- from 0.05% to 15% by moles of the acrylic comonomer (a) referred to the sum of the previous monomers, preferably n-butylacrylate.

4. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to [claims 1-3] claim 1, wherein layer A) is formed by a blend of the copolymers of layer A) and the same copolymers without the acrylic monomer, provided that the blend contains an amount of acrylic monomer (a) in the range 0.01% - 15% by moles with respect to the total sum of the monomers of ethylene and of CTFE and/or TFE of the blend.

5. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to [claims 1-4] claim 1, wherein the polyamides of layer B) are formed by a blend of polyamides having different contents of -NH₂ end groups provided that the blend contains an amount of -NH₂ end groups higher than 40 µeq/g.

6. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to [claims 1-5] claim 1, wherein layer B) is a polyamide having an amount of -NH₂ end groups lower than 40 µeq/g, blended with 0.01-5% by weight, preferably 0.1-2% by weight, of one or more diamines.

7. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to [claims 1-6] claim 1, wherein the diamines are selected from the group formed by hexamethyldiaminecarbamate, N,N' -diciinnamylidene-1,6 hexandiamine, dodecyldiamine and decyldiamine, para-xylylendiamine.

8. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to [claims 1-7] claim 1, wherein on the top of layer A) a layer A1) is placed based on copolymers of ethylene with chlorotrifluoroethylene, and/or tetrafluoroethylene, not containing the acrylic monomer (a), and/or on the top of layer B), a layer B1) is placed based on polyamide having an amount of -NH₂ end groups lower than 40µeq/g.

9. (Amended) Multilayer manufactured articles according to [claims 1-8] claim 1, under the form of sheath-core fibers.

10. (Amended) Fuel lines formed by multilayers according to [claims 1-8] claim 1, wherein at least the internal layer in contact with the liquid fuel is made conductive by incorporation of graphite and/or carbon black.